



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Info application of: Thompson et al.
 Serial No: 09/883,089
 Filed: 15 June 2001
 For: Systems for Applying Ultrasound Energy to the Thoracic Cavity

Group Art Unit: 3737
 Examiner: Ruth S. Smith

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING DATE
 OF EITHER A FINAL ACTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 CFR 1.97(c))**

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed ... before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under S 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under S 1.311, whichever occurs first, provided the statement is accompanied by either a certification as specified in paragraph (e) of this section or the fee set forth in S 1.17(p)." 37 CFR 1.97(c).

NOTE: "If a final action or notice of allowance is mailed in an application and later withdrawn, the application will be considered as not having had a final action or notice of allowance mailed for purposes of considering an information disclosure statement." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "If information submitted during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with a certification is used in a new ground of rejection on unamended claims, the next Office action will not be made final since in this situation it is clear that applicant has submitted the information to the office promptly after it has become known and the information is being submitted prior to a final determination on patentability by the Office. However, the information submitted with a certification can be used in a new ground of rejection and the next Office action made final, [i]f the new ground of rejection was necessitated by amendment of the application by applicant. Where the information is submitted during this period with a fee, the examiner may use the information submitted, e.g., printed publication or evidence of public use, and make the next Office action final whether or not the claims have been amended, provided that no other new ground of rejection which was not necessitated by amendment to the claims is introduced by the examiner. See MPEP 706.07(a). If a new ground of rejection is introduced that is neither necessitated by an amendment to the claims nor based on the information submitted with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p), the Office action shall not be made final." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

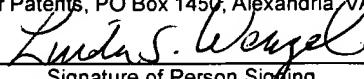
WARNING: "A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION TO ALLOW APPLICANT TIME TO SUBMIT AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL BE DENIED AS FAILING TO PRESENT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS, SINCE 37 CFR 1.97 PROVIDES ADEQUATE RECOURSE FOR THE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PRIOR ART FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXAMINER." NOTICE OF JULY 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

**TIME OF TRANSMITTAL OF ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION
 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

1. The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed AFTER THREE MONTHS OF THE FILING DATE OF THIS NATIONAL APPLICATION OR THE DATE OF ENTRY OF THE NATIONAL STAGE AS SET FORTH IN S 1.491 IN AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OR AFTER THE MAILING DATE OF THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURRED LAST BUT BEFORE THE MAILING DATE OF EITHER:
 - (1) a final action under § 1.113 or
 - (2) a notice of allowance under § 1.311,
 whichever occurs first.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed as follows: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on 15 March 2006


 Signature of Person Signing

Linda S. Wenzel

Type or Print Name of Person Signing

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03/20/2006 WABDELR1 00000046 09883089

03 FC:1806

CERTIFICATION OR FEE

2. Accompanying this transmittal is
(check either A or B below)

A. a certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e)
OR

B. the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under S 1.97(c). (\$180.00).

FEE PAYMENT

(complete this item, if applicable)

3. Applicant elects the option to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under S 1.97(c) (\$180.00).

Fee due \$ 180.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FEE

4. Attached is check in the amount of \$ 180.00

Charge Account No. in the amount of \$
A duplicate of this request is attached.

The submission of any document herewith is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Account No. 06-2360

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Signature of Attorney
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<p>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Customer No. 26308</p> <p><i>COPIE MAR 17 2006</i></p>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 9345.17121-CON 1	SERIAL NO. 09/883,089
	APPLICANT Thompson et al.	
	FILING DATE 15 June 2001	GROUP 3737

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	5,291,894	03/1994	Nagy			
	5,695,460	12/1997	Siegel et al.			
	5,725,482	03/1998	Bishop			
	2003/0157025	08/2003	Unger et al.			
	5,580,575	12/1996	Unger et al.			
	6,477,426	11/2002	Fenn et al.			
	6,682,502	01/2004	Bond et al.			
	6,635,017	10/2003	Moehring et al.			
	5,024,829	06/1991	Berger et al.			
	2004/0230252	11/2004	Kullok et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	JP8089549	04/1996	JP			
	WO 85/03634	08/1985	PCT			

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Koiwa et al., "The effect of diastolic vibration on the coronary flow rate in the canine heart with ischemia" Journal Cardiovasc Diagn Procedures, 12; p. 110
		Lindblad et al., "Effect of Vibration on a Canine Cutaneous Artery," Am J. Physiol. 250 H519-H523 (1986)
		Ljung et al., "Inhibition of Vascular Smooth Muscle Contraction by Vibrations" Abstract Acta Physiol. Scand., 396, Suppl., p. 95 (1973)
		The "Vitafon Device," Vitafon Company, www.vitafon.net
		Zagzebski, "Essentials of Ultrasound Physics," Physics of Diagnostic Ultrasound, p. 5

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.
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<p style="text-align: center;">LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Customer No. 26308</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O I P E M A R 1 7 2 0 0 5 A P 8 8 C O M M I S S I O N P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E</p>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 9345.17121-CON 1	SERIAL NO. 09/883,089
	APPLICANT Thompson et al.	
	FILING DATE 15 June 2001	GROUP 3737

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	5,454,373	10/1995	Koger et al.			
	5,913,834	06/1999	Francais			
	6,095,979	08/2000	Ohtomo			
	6,434,539	08/2000	Woodsum et al.			
	6,511,429	01/2003	Fatemi et al.			
	2004/0133066	07/2004	Mann et al.			
	2005/0004460	01/2005	Taylor et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No

OTHER PRIOR ART (*Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.*)

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